

In The Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in this application.

1. (original) A granular delivery system comprising a flavor or fragrance ingredient or composition distributed as droplets throughout a matrix of polymeric carriers, wherein said carriers comprise at least a carbohydrate material and from 1 to 7% of prehydrated agar agar, relative to the dried weight of the granular system.
2. (original) A delivery system according to claim 1, wherein the carriers comprise from 1 to 3% of agar agar.
3. (original) A delivery system according to claim 1, wherein the carriers comprise from 1 to 1.5% of agar agar.
4. (original) A delivery system according to claim 1, wherein the flavor or fragrance ingredient or composition is hydrophobic.
5. (original) A delivery system according to claim 1, wherein the carbohydrate material is selected from the group consisting of a maltodextrin or corn syrup, a chemically modified starch, a hydrogenated starch hydrolysate or a succinylated or hydrolysed starch.
6. (original) A delivery system according to claim 1, wherein the carriers consist of maltodextrin in the form of a narrow cut of polymer chains and from 1 to 7% of agar agar.
7. (original) A delivery system according to claim 6, wherein the carriers consist of maltodextrin in the form of a narrow cut of polymer chains and from 1 to 3% of agar agar.
8. (original) A delivery system according to claim 5, wherein the polymeric carriers further comprise a sugar, selected from the group consisting of sucrose, glucose, lactose, maltose, fructose, isomalt, sorbitol, mannitol, xylitol, lactitol, maltitol, and hydrogenated corn syrup.

9. (original) A delivery system according to claim 5, wherein the maltodextrin has a dextrose equivalent equal to or above 18.
10. (original) A delivery system according to claim 1, wherein the flavor or fragrance ingredient or composition represents from 0.1 to 25% by weight relative to the dried granular system.
11. (original) A delivery system according to claim 1, wherein the flavor or fragrance ingredient or composition represents from 5 to 16% by weight relative to the dried granular system.
12. (original) Process for the preparation of a delivery system according to claim 1, comprising the following steps:
- (a) combining and blending a flavour or fragrance ingredient or composition with a matrix comprising an aqueous solution of at least a carbohydrate material, from 1 to 7% of prehydrated agar agar, and optionally an emulsifier, under temperature and stirring conditions useful to produce a uniform melt thereof;
 - (b) extruding the uniform melt through a die;
 - (c) chopping, cutting, grinding or pulverising the material obtained as it exits the die or after cooling the melt; and
 - (d) optionally drying.
13. (original) Process according to claim 12, wherein the matrix consists of a hot carbohydrate melt of 4 to 12% moisture.
14. (original) Process according to claim 12, wherein step d) is followed by the mixing of the obtained particles with a free flow agent.
15. (amended) ~~Use of a~~ The delivery system according to claim 1, for the wherein the droplets release the flavor or fragrance ingredient or composition during use of the granular system of a flavoring or perfuming ingredient or composition.
16. (amended) ~~Use of a~~ The delivery system according to claim 15, wherein the granular system is present in a product selected from the group consisting of a chewing

gum or a soft chewy confection, an ice-cream, a biscuit, a pharmaceutical preparation, a toothpaste.

17. (amended) ~~Use of a~~ The delivery system according to claim 15, wherein the granular system is present in a product selected from the group consisting of a detergent, a fabric softener, a soap, a shower or bath gel, a shampoo or another hair-care product, a body lotion, a deodorant, and a home care cleaning product.